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## FACT SHEET

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### Family Dispute Resolution (FDR)

The Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) unit of the Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) focuses on assisting the trial courts' approximately 400 Family Court Services staff who provide the following services:

- Child custody mediation and child custody recommending counseling
- Juvenile dependency mediation
- Child custody evaluation
- Parent orientation programs
- Other related services assigned by the local court (e.g., guardianship mediation and investigations, minor marriage assessments)

#### Mandated Training

The FDR unit collaborates with other CFCC staff and with trial courts staff to plan and provide mandated training and continuing education as required by the Family Code and California Rules of Court in the following subject matter areas:

- Child custody mediation
- Juvenile dependency mediation
- Child custody evaluation
- Domestic violence

#### Major Training Events

The FDR unit produces and coordinates the following:

- The FDR Statewide Educational Institute, held in conjunction with the Judicial Family Law Institute (frequency depends on budget situation—as of 2009 the institute has taken place every other year)
- Regional one-day trainings conducted throughout the state, using Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) regional offices and local trial court facilities to reduce facility costs
- Institute for New Court Professionals, providing initial professional training for Family Court Services staff who have recently joined their trial courts (takes place depending on budget and number of new hires)

### Innovative Training Initiatives

The FDR unit is supplementing in-person training with distance-learning modalities to make content more readily accessible year-round and reduce expenses both to the local courts and to the AOC:

- Webinars
- Online training
- DVDs
- Moodle

### Trial Court Collaboration

FDR staff also work with trial court staff in these additional ways:

- Technical assistance, program review, and court visits
- Input pertaining to proposed legislation affecting family court services, mediation, child custody, and related topics
- Policy development
- Research and workload studies
- Forms or rule changes

### Contact

For more information about Family Dispute Resolution unit activities, please contact:

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For educational resources and other materials related to the CFCC's Family Dispute Resolution program, please visit [www.courts.ca.gov/3059.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/3059.htm).